



United States  
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# FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## FSIS Receives Prestigious 2007 Presidential Quality Award

FSIS received the 2007 Presidential Award for Management Excellence on Dec. 3. The agency was honored for its dedication, hard work and outstanding leadership in advancing the President’s Management Agenda through the strategic management of human capital.



*Office of Personnel Management Director Linda Springer presents FSIS Administrator Alfred Almanza the 2007 Presidential Award for Management Excellence .*

This year, FSIS received one of six awards given to federal agencies for excellence in quality and productivity and is one of the first federal agencies to achieve recognition from the Office of Personnel Management for a validated and credible performance management program. USDA selected FSIS as the first agency to test this new performance management model for the department.

“The most important factor in the day-to-day success at FSIS is our dedicated and talented workforce I have the honor of working with,” said FSIS Administrator Alfred Almanza. “This dedication and effort is the key to our achievement of positive, measurable results for the millions of consumers around

the world who enjoy safe and wholesome meat, poultry and processed egg products every day.”

The award recognizes the agency’s many initiatives in human capital productivity including the ability to recruit and hire veterinarians, food inspectors, scientists and other employees who serve a vital role in protecting public health.

To view the news release, visit FSIS’ Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_120407\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_120407_01/index.asp).

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## Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following:

### Hong Kong

### Japan

Complete information can be found at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

FSIS' virtual representative **Ask Karen** is available to provide food safety information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at [www.askkaren.gov](http://www.askkaren.gov).

Consumers can also contact the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline with food safety questions, year-round from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST (English and Spanish).

The toll-free number is 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854). E-mail inquiries may be directed to [MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline.fsis@usda.gov).

## FSIS to Issue Directives and Notices

FSIS frequently publishes directives and notices to enhance the agency's efforts in protecting public health.

The following directives are expected to be issued within the next month:

- 5420.1 - *Homeland Security*,
- 5420.4 - *Homeland Security - Office of International Affairs*,

Notices are expected to be issued on the following topics:

- documentation of non-compliance reports in egg product plants,

- planned directives and notices for egg products inspection, and

- reassessment and training notice which revises FSIS Notice 35-07.

To view past and current FSIS directives and notices, visit [www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&policies/regulations\\_directives\\_&notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&policies/regulations_directives_&notices/index.asp).

## Office of Food Safety and Agricultural Marketing Service to Hold Codex Public Meeting

USDA's Office of Food Safety and the Agricultural Marketing Service will hold a public meeting Jan. 17, 2008, to provide information and receive comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions for the Eighth Session of the Milk and Milk Products Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The public meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, in

Room 3074, U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. Pre-registration for the public meeting is not required.

Agenda items and related documents will be available on FSIS' Web site at [www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp).

**Got Food Safety Questions?**

Visit "Ask Karen" at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov). Click on "I Want To ... Ask A Food Safety Question"

Call the **USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline: 1-888-MPHOTLINE (1-888-674-6854)**

